(c) whether it is a fact that these agencies earn a fortune through business of human beings, particularly minor and young rural girls?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To safeguard the interest of job-seekers, Ministry of Labour & Employment have issued guidelines to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to consider regulation of the functioning of Private Placement Agencies, as per local needs.

Increase of unemployment in rural and urban areas

†1732. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed persons in the country have increased in the year 2004 in comparison to the year, 2003;

(b) if so, the respective increase in the rural and urban areas; and

(c) the individual number of unemployed persons in urban and rural areas during, 2003 and 2004?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO) : (a) to (c) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Latest survey for which results are available pertains to the year 1999-2000. Unemployment in rural and urban areas during 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are given below:

	Unemployed (In Millions)	
	1993-94	1999-2000
Rural	3.35	4.39
Urban	4.12	4.66
TOTAL*	7.50	9.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
*Totals may not tally due to rounding off.